

DOE Weekly Field Memo – July 7, 2010

From the Vermont Department of Education:

- Request from Commissioner Vilaseca Regarding Field Memo
- Memo from the Commissioner on the Organization of the Department and Content-level Specialists
- Memo from the Commissioner on Mandatory Abuse Registry Checks
- Part C Maintenance of Effort Participation in IDEA Part C (Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities)
- Technical Assistance Resource Guide (TARG) for Sexual Violence Prevention Released for Schools
- Seeking Talented Educator Nominations

From the Agency of Human Services:

- Designing a New Model for Integrated Family Services

From the Vermont Department of Public Service:

- Environmental Grants – K-12
-

Request from Commissioner Vilaseca Regarding Field Memo

Audience: All

I want to thank all of you for taking the time to review this memo each week and for the positive feedback we have received. Many of you make it a practice to pass along this memo to your staff as appropriate, which is the purpose of many of the items included. I would like to ask that all of you implement that practice, as this is our main method of communicating with all educators and administrators. If there is a way to automate the practice in your SU or district, to distribute it automatically to all educators in your district, we strongly encourage that. If you have suggestions for us, they are of course always welcome. Thank you.

Contact: Jill Remick, Communications Director, (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

Memo from the Commissioner on the Organization of the Department and Content-level Specialists

Audience: All

Recently the department has seen significant changes in the number of employees and the duties of the staffing at the department. In order to focus on the priorities of the State Board of Education and the department, changes have been made to the duties of some content specialists with whom the field and our partners have had regular interaction. View the complete memo and a new organizational chart at <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maindept.html#content>.

Contact: Jill Remick, Communications Director, (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

Memo from the Commissioner on Mandatory Abuse Registry Checks

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Human Resources

Drafting oversights during the 2010 legislative session may have introduced ambiguity to the effective date for mandatory abuse registry checks. The effective date may be as soon as July 1, 2010. The department strongly advises school districts to run Child Protection Registry and Adult Abuse Registry checks on all prospective school employees, effective immediately. Districts should also run checks for school contractors who may have unsupervised contact with schoolchildren.

View the complete memo here: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maindept.html#registry>

Contact: Matt Raymond, Investigator, at (802) 828-6538 or mattthew.raymond@state.vt.us

Part C Maintenance of Effort Participation in IDEA Part C (Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities)

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Special Education Directors, Essential Early Educators and Coordinators

The department and the Agency of Human Services are responsible for administration of the IDEA Part C Program grant that helps fund Children's Integrated Services/Early Intervention (CIS/EI); formally known as Vermont's Family Infant Toddler Program (FITP). In order to receive the grant funds each year, Vermont must assure that it will maintain the same level of support from state and local sources from the

prior year; this is referred to as "maintenance of effort". Vermont must annually calculate the amount of funds being expended on CIS/EI from various sources and report these actual expenditures to the U.S. Department of Education. The Part C Interagency Agreement clarifies school district responsibilities for Part C, as well as the allowable sources of funds. **Deadline is September 15.** View more information at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_earlyed/essential_early.html#moe.

Contact: Kate Rogers, Early Education Coordinator, at (802) 828-5115 or kate.rogers@state.vt.us

Technical Assistance Resource Guide (TARG) for Sexual Violence Prevention Released for Schools

Audience: Administrators, Curriculum Coordinators, Nurses, School Counselors, Classroom Teachers and Health Educators

The Technical Assistance Resource Guide (TARG) provides guidance for schools to implement sexual violence prevention education within schools. This document, created by the Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force, was mandated as part of *ACT 1 - An Act Relating to Improving Vermont's Sexual Violence Abuse Response System* of the 2009 legislative session. View the guide at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_health_ed.html#targ.

Contact: Donna McAllister at (802) 828-1636 or donna.mcallister@state.vt.us

Seeking Talented Educator Nominations

Audience: All

The State of Vermont is seeking nominations of emerging classroom educators (15 years experience or less) who may be recognized as leaders in the state. These educators may be considered for membership on advisory boards and task forces, as well as candidates for special recognition programs. Your recommendations will identify educators who will be of great value to your community and state and who may also ultimately receive prestigious recognition. We ask that you keep this recommendation confidential and do not share it with the individual. Visit

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/awards.html#talent> to view a letter from the commissioner and the nomination form. **Deadline: August 1, 2010.**

Contact: Jill Remick, Communications Director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

From the Agency of Human Services:

Designing a New Model for Integrated Family Services

Audience: Special Education Directors, Superintendents, Principals, Early Education Professionals, Local Interagency Team Contacts

An invitation will be distributed by July 9, 2010 to all Agency of Human Services (AHS) and Local Interagency Team regions. The invitation is to participate in the design of a new model that combines several existing programs and child and family funding streams. The goal is to integrate AHS children's services efforts to create flexible packages of support and treatment for families based on diagnostic and functional needs of the family, child, and youth. Phase I will involve program design, Phase II regional implementation of a standardized statewide program and phase III statewide implementation.

We are asking for a local commitment of leadership and willingness to rethink the service delivery approach to design a program that will be implemented statewide. Each interested region will commit staff for participation in regional or statewide meetings. Direct involvement of the Field Director, Children's Mental Health Director, LIT Director, Family Service Director, DS Director, youth and adult substance abuse providers, family representation and local education agencies will be requested.

The invitation, along with additional Challenges for Change information, can be found at:

<http://humanservices.vermont.gov/challenges-for-change>.

From the Vermont Department of Public Service:

Environmental Grants – K-12

Audience: All

The National Education Association is requesting proposals for Green Across America grants, to help K-12 teachers across the U.S. implement their innovative education program, activity, lesson, or event to increase environmental awareness, create positive learning programs, and excite students about ways to create a better planet. \$50,000 expected to be available, individual awards not to exceed \$1,000.

Responses due July 30, 2010. For more info, go to: http://www.neamb.com/home/1209_4672.htm.

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.